

## Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 EB-07 AID-05 /067 W

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R 151215Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0012

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0026

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS AND ARAB SOCIALIST UNION

REF: CAIRO 11827

1. IN CONVERSATIONS JANUARY 14, ARAB SOCIALIST UNION SECRETARY FOR ALEXANDRIA, DR. FAROUK GARRANA, WAS ASKED ABOUT PROGRESS IN CREATING "MINBARS" BY LOCAL ASU. HE SAID ASU WAS PROCEEDING VERY CAUTIOUSLY IN THIS PROGRAM FOR BROADENING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS (REFTEL).

2. GARRANA NOTED THAT "MINBARS" SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE LOOKED UPON AS POLITICAL PARTIES, WHICH SOME PEOPLE SEEMED WISH TO DO. HE SAID POLITICAL PARTY MUST HAVE LEADERS AND PROGRAMS (IMPLYING OPPOSITION TO EXISTING LEADERS AND PROGRAMS). HE THEN SAID THAT THIS WAS WHAT EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS HAD TRIED TO DO, MAKING "MINBARS" CLOAKS FOR SPREADING COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY AND ASU COULD NOT PERMIT THAT. EGYPT, GARRANA SAID, IS NOT YET READY FOR "NINE OR TEN" CONTENDING POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT MUST ACCEPT SINGLE PARTY TO ACHIEVE NECESSARY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

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3. COMMENT: WHEN CONGEN SUGGESTED THAT WHAT ASU ENVISAGED FOR

"MINBAR" WAS DISCUSSION GROUP IN WHICH PARTY LEADERS COULD EXPLAIN OWN VIEWS AND RECEIVE VIEWS OF PEOPLE, GARRANA MADE AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION. "MINBAR" (NAME ASU CHOSE FOR PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETINGS), HE EXPLAINED, IS ELEVATED ROSTRUM IN MOSQUE FROM WHICH RELIGIOUS LEADER SPEAKS TO FAITHFUL. ONE CAN ASSUME ASU INTENDS "PREACH" TO PEOPLE, CONVEYING IMMUTABLE TRUTHS, RATHER THAN PROVIDE FORUM FOR THE PEOPLE.  
CHASE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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